Amendments to the Specification:

Please replace the paragraph at page 8, line 2, with the following amended paragraph:

--Fig. 1 shows an actuating system which contains a piston-cylinder assembly 1 in the form of a gas spring. The actuating system can be used, for example, for the opening and closing movement of a vehicle door or vehicle tailgate. The piston-cylinder assembly has a cylinder 3 as one subassembly and a piston rod 5 as a second subassembly, the piston rod being fixed to piston 29 which is movable axially relative to the cylinder. The cylinder is filled with a gaseous pressure medium, with the result that a ~~pushing-out~~ restoring force acts on the piston rod when the piston is moved. Each of the two subassemblies has a connecting element 7; 9, the connecting element 7 mounted on the cylinder being designed in the form of a radial pivot bearing. With regard to the above-mentioned exemplary embodiment, the pivot bearing 7 can be fastened on a vehicle body and the connecting bearing 9 can be fastened on a vehicle tailgate.--

Please replace the paragraph at page 8, line 18, with the following amended paragraph:

--The piston-cylinder assembly exerts ~~an actuating~~ a restoring force in the direction of extension of the piston rod 5. In contrast, the actuator together with the force-transmitting element acts counter to the ~~actuating~~ restoring force of the piston-cylinder assembly and enables the piston rod to be retracted again. The force-transmitting element or Bowden cable 15 is supported axially against a stop 25. Between the stop and a connection 27 of the Bowden cable on the piston-cylinder assembly 1 there is a spacing corresponding at least to the stroke length of the piston rod.--